

"young people" by various devices will be regarded as of more consequence than to build up his hearers, old and young, in personal godliness and to lead sinners to Christ Jesus. If the pastor strikes such a key-note, then it is not improbable that his people will say, "Amen," especially if he be a stirring, sociable and popular man. But if you look at the report of that church in the Year Book of any denomination, you will see a pitifully small list of additions on "confession of faith." The fact that the social is put so far above the spiritual in too many churches, is one cause for the lamentable diminution of conversions.

The Power of a Smile

Every minister, teacher and Christian worker should remember the following story told by a London paper of what can be done by smiles that come from the heart: A lady of position and property, anxious about her neighbors, provided religious services for them. She was very deaf—could scarcely hear at all. On one occasion one of her preachers managed to make her understand him, and at the close of their conversation asked, "But what part do you take in the work?" "Oh," she replied, "I smile them in, and I smile them out." Very soon the preacher saw the result of her generous, loving sympathy in a multitude of broad shouldered, hard fisted men, who entered the place of worship, delighted to get a smile from her as she used to stand in the doorway to receive them. Many more of those who now neglect the church and Sabbath school would be found there if Christians would "smile them in and smile them out."

Giving its Own Reward

The Apostle Paul resurrects one of the most beautiful of our Lord's sayings, a saying which but for him might have been lost, and with it the world would have lost a rich treasure. It is this: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This truth is but vaguely realized by the great majority of Christian people for the reason that they do not enter into the spirit of giving with the whole heart. There is a whole world of unbelief on the subject of giving. They give because they feel they *must* give to keep up the machinery of the church. They have false conceptions of the idea and purpose of giving and the secret of it all is that they have not learned the spirit of sacrifice. Giving is one of the sweetest parts of divine worship, we say worship, because giving is worship, as much so as praying and singing. There is no other service that brings so much real joy and pleasure, such rich spiritual blessings as the giving of our substance to the Lord. If Christian people would have a proper conception of this truth, our Mission Boards would not need to go begging. The treasuries would be overflowing and there would be no lack of funds with which to carry on the work of the Lord. And while the church would have a little less of what can be calculated by human mathematics, she would be infinitely richer in grace and the hearts of the people be filled with sweet charities. It is giving that enriches. The wise man of old declares that there is a withholding more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty, and there is that that scattereth and it enriches. The Christian never realizes all

the fulness of joy in Christ Jesus until he knows by a blessed experience what it means to have his heart, his very life, his soul, go out in sweet charities to those who know not Christ, who are living in darkness. The pious Dr. A. J. Gordon very truthfully says: The Christian who opens the broadest outlet for charity will find the widest inlet for the Spirit. The health of the human body depends upon its exhalation as well as upon its inhalations. It is reported that a boy who was to personate a shining cherub in a play, on being covered over with a coating of goldleaf, which entirely closed the pores of the skin, died in consequence. Woe to the Christian who gets so goldleafed over with his wealth that the pores of his sympathy are shut and the outgoings of his charity restrained. He is thenceforth dead spiritually, tho he may have a name to live.

Ashland College—The Endowment Again

"Still at it," some one will say. Certainly, and we expect to keep at it until we are satisfied in our own mind that the Brethren church as a body does not see the need of laying broad and deep the foundation of its educational work. For several weeks we have emphasized and endeavored to keep prominently before our people the importance of an immediate larger endowment. We have no way of knowing whether the reader believes what we have written on this subject or not, or whether the majority of the members of the Brethren church really see the *need* of a Christian institution of learning under our own management or not. We should like to have an expression of the minds of the people who are or ought to be directly interested. The time has come when our people must take a stand one way or the other. If your sentiments are at variance with those expressed in these editorial columns let the church know where you stand. The columns of the paper are open for free discussion and agitation of the subject. Do you earnestly and sincerely believe that the Brethren church is in need of a well equipped educational institution under its own auspices? Do you believe with equal earnestness and sincerity that Ashland College should have your hearty support and cooperation? Do you believe that Ashland College needs an endowment, a larger endowment than it now has, or is it your conviction that an educational institution should be self-supporting? Brethren, let us provoke a little controversy along these lines if haply it may be unto good works. Anything is better than criminal indifference. Let us at once deliver ourselves from that unhappy state which is so nauseate to the Lord that even *he* will rid himself of it.

We are glad to announce that we have one response to our appeal for ten men to take a pledge of \$1,000 each. Please remember that you are not required to pay the \$1,000 in cash. You give your pledge to the management of the College for \$1,000 and pay the interest on that sum for a period of ten years. It means that you agree to pay \$60 a year to the support of Ashland College for a period of ten years. Who will take the second of the ten pledges? Are there not ten people in the Brethren church sufficiently interested and able to pay \$60 a year to the support of our only school? Yes, there are more than 100 who are *able*, but are there even *ten* sufficiently *interested*? We shall wait and see.